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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

On 12 April 1994 the President of Azerbaijan, Heydar A. Aliyev, addressed the Azerbaijani people and the international community on national television in connection with the expansion of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan.

He reported that, starting on 10 April 1994, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, continuing their aggression against Azerbaijan, had launched a new large-scale offensive in the directions of Geranboy, Agdere and Agdam.

President Aliyev described the latest Armenian attack as a new stage in Armenia's aggression aimed at seizing new territories in Azerbaijan. Through this attack, Armenia had once again shown its true face, its declarations about its desire to resolve the conflict by peaceful means notwithstanding. He stated that the aggressor was seeking through its attack to bring pressure to bear on Azerbaijan and its leadership and to block the peace process.

The President emphasized that the aggressor would not attain its objectives. Azerbaijan was defending and would continue to defend its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Azerbaijan did not want war, but would not accept a humiliating peace, and its people were engaging in a just struggle against the aggressor.

The President described in detail the position of Azerbaijan regarding a peaceful settlement of the conflict, drawing attention to Azerbaijan's active participation in all mediation efforts by the international community, including international organizations and individual States. He described at some length the latest stages in the negotiating process, recalling his meeting on 24 December 1993 with the President of Armenia, L. Ter-Petrossian, and the signature by the Ministers of Defence of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation of the protocol of 18 February 1994 on a cease-fire, the visit to Azerbaijan and Armenia of the Chairman of the Minsk Group of CSCE, J. Eliasson, in March 1994, the meeting of the speakers of the parliaments of Azerbaijan and

Armenia on 12 March 1994, and the talks at Baku and Erevan with the Special Representative of the Russian Federation, V. Kazimirov. All Azerbaijan's efforts to find a mutually acceptable compromise solution, however, had come up against Armenia's position of employing force.

The Head of the Azerbaijani State appealed to the leadership and people of Armenia to halt the war unleashed by reactionary nationalist circles both in and outside Armenia, which was causing the people of both States incalculable harm and suffering. He emphasized once again that Azerbaijan wanted peace, but would accept it on condition that all Armenian troops were withdrawn from Azerbaijani territory and that its territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders were restored. The international community did not accept change in borders and occupation of territory by violence, and that principle must be respected in the region in question as well.

The Azerbaijani leader also appealed to the Armenian residents of Nagorny Karabakh who were citizens of the Azerbaijani Republic and had become victims of another country's policy and caught up in bloodshed. He urged his Armenian fellow citizens to peace and harmony, and offered them a guarantee of their security and the protection of their rights.

President Aliyev appealed to the international community, the United Nations and its Security Council, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the Minsk Group operating under its auspices, as well as to neighbouring States, to step up their capabilities and efforts aimed at halting the aggression and securing a peaceful solution of the conflict. He expressed the hope that his appeal would be heeded.

In conclusion, the President of the Azerbaijani Republic once again emphasized that Azerbaijan could accept a compromise for the sake of achieving peace, but would not make unilateral concessions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated urgently as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.